

§ 1943.51

TOTAL U.S. PARTICIPATION RATE—Continued

State	Target Participa- tion rate (percent)
Oklahoma	12
Oregon	5
Pennsylvania	2
Rhode Island	2
South Carolina	34
South Dakota	9
Tennessee	6
Texas	22
Utah	7
Vermont	1
Virginia	2
Washington	7
West Virginia	3
Wisconsin	2
Wyoming	7
U.S. Total	10

[57 FR 19524, May 7, 1992]

Subpart B—Direct Soil and Water Loan Policies, Procedures, and Authorizations

SOURCE: 53 FR 35706, Sept. 15, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1943.51 Introduction.

This subpart contains regulations for making initial and subsequent direct Soil and Water (SW) loans. It is the policy of Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 to make loans to any qualified applicant without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, marital status, age or physical/mental handicap provided the applicant can execute a legal contract. Any processing or servicing activity conducted pursuant to this subpart involving authorized assistance to FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 employees, members of their families, known close relatives, or business or close personal associates, is subject to the provisions of subpart D of part 1900 of this chapter. Applicants for this assistance are required to identify any known relationship or association with an FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 employee. See exhibit A of subpart A of this part for making SW loans to entrymen on unpatented public lands. See subpart R of part 2000 of this chapter (available in any FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354

7 CFR Ch. XVIII (1-1-04 Edition)

office) for the Memorandum of Understanding between the Farm Credit Administration (FCA) and the FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354.

[53 FR 35706, Sept. 15, 1988, as amended at 58 FR 227, Jan. 5, 1993; 58 FR 48282, Sept. 15, 1993]

§ 1943.52 Objectives.

The basic objective of the SW loan program is to provide credit and management assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers when credit is not available elsewhere. FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 assistance enables farm and ranch operators to use their land resources to improve their financial conditions so that they can obtain credit elsewhere.

§ 1943.53 Management assistance.

Supervision will be provided borrowers to the extent necessary to achieve loan objectives and protect the Government's interest, in accordance with subpart B of part 1924 of this chapter.

§ 1943.54 Definitions.

Additional security. Any security beyond that which is required to adequately secure the loan.

Approval official. A field official who has been delegated loan and grant approval authorities within applicable loan programs, subject to the dollar limitations contained in tables available in any FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 office.

Beginning farmer or rancher. A beginning farmer or rancher is an individual or entity who:

(a) Meets the loan eligibility requirements for SW loan assistance in accordance with § 1943.62 of this subpart.

(b) Has not operated a farm or ranch, or who has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years. This requirement applies to all members of an entity.

(c) Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch.

(1) In the case of a loan made to an individual, individually or with the immediate family, material and substantial participation requires that the individual provide substantial day-to-day

labor and management of the farm or ranch, consistent with the practices in the county or State where the farm is located.

(2) In the case of a loan made to an entity, all members must materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch. Material and substantial participation requires that the individual provides some amount of the management, or labor and management necessary for day-to-day activities, such that if the individual did not provide these inputs, operation of the farm or ranch would be seriously impaired.

(d) Agrees to participate in any loan assessment, borrower training, and financial management programs required by FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 regulations.

(e) Does not own real farm or ranch property or who, directly or through interests in family farm entities owns real farm or ranch property, the aggregate acreage of which does not exceed 15 percent of the average farm or ranch acreage of the farms or ranches in the county where the property is located. If the farm is located in more than one county, the average farm acreage of the county where the applicant's residence is located will be used in the calculation. If the applicant's residence is not located on the farm or if the applicant is an entity, the average farm acreage of the county where the major portion of the farm is located will be used. The average county farm or ranch acreage will be determined from the most recent Census of Agriculture developed by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. State Directors will publish State supplements containing the average farm or ranch acreage by county.

(f) Demonstrates that the available resources of the applicant and spouse (if any) are not sufficient to enable the applicant to enter or continue farming or ranching on a viable scale.

(g) In the case of an entity:

(1) All the members are related by blood or marriage.

(2) All the stockholders in a corporation are qualified beginning farmers or ranchers.

Borrower. An individual or entity which has outstanding obligations to the FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 under any Farmer Programs loan(s), without regard to whether the loan has been accelerated. A borrower includes all parties liable for the FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 debt, including collection-only borrowers, except for debtors whose total loans and accounts have been voluntarily or involuntarily foreclosed or liquidated, or who have been discharged of all FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 debt.

Cooperative. An entity which has farming as its purpose and whose members have agreed to share the profits of the farming enterprise. The entity must be recognized as a farm cooperative by the laws of the State(s) in which the entity will operate a farm.

Corporation. For the purposes of this regulation, a private domestic corporation created and organized under the laws of the State(s) in which the entity will operate a farm.

Cosigner. A party who joins in the execution of a promissory note to assure its repayment. The cosigner becomes jointly and severally liable to comply with the terms of the note. In the case of an entity applicant, the cosigner cannot be a member, partner, joint operator, or stockholder of the entity.

Farm. A tract or tracts of land, improvements, and other appurtenances considered to be farm property which is used or will be used in the production of crops or livestock, including the production of fish under controlled conditions, for sale in sufficient quantities so that the property is recognized as a farm rather than a rural residence. The term *farm* also includes any such land and improvements and facilities used in a nonfarm enterprise. It may also include a residence which, although physically separate from the farm acreage, is ordinarily treated as a part of the farm in the local community.

Feasible plan. A feasible plan is a plan based upon the applicant/borrower's records that show the farming operation's actual production and expenses. These records will be used along with realistic anticipated prices, including

farm program payments when available, to determine that the income from the farming operation, along with any other reliable off-farm income, will provide the income necessary for the applicant/borrower to at least be able to:

(a) Pay all operating expenses and all taxes which are due during the projected farm budget period.

(b) Meet necessary payments on all debts, except as provided in §1941.14 of subpart A of part 1941 of this chapter, for annual production loans or subordinations made to delinquent borrowers.

(c) Provide living expenses for the family members of an individual borrower or a wage for the farm operator in the case of a cooperative, corporation, partnership or joint operation borrower which is in accordance with essential family needs. Family members include the individual borrower or farm operator in the case of an entity, and the immediate members of the family which resides in the same household.

Fish farming. The production of fish, mollusks, or crustaceans (or other invertebrates) under controlled conditions in ponds, lakes, streams, or similar holding areas. This involves feeding, tending, harvesting and other activities as are necessary to properly raise and market the products.

Indefinite parole. To verify that applicants other than citizens are legally admitted to the U.S. on the indefinite parole, such applicants must provide their Form I-94, "Immigration on Indefinite Parole" card.

Joint operation. Individuals that have agreed to operate a farm or farms together as a business unit. The real and personal property is owned separately or jointly by the individuals. A husband and wife who want to apply for a loan together will be considered a joint operation.

Leasehold. A right to use farm property for a specific period of time under conditions provided for in a lease agreement.

Limited resource applicant. An applicant who is a farmer or rancher and is an owner or operator of a farm, including a new owner or operator, with a low income who demonstrates a need to maximize farm or ranch income. A limited

resource applicant must meet the eligibility requirements for a soil and water loan, but due to low income, cannot pay the regular interest rate on such loans. Due to the complex nature of the problems facing this applicant, special help will be needed and more supervisory assistance will be required to assure reasonable prospects for success. The applicant may face such problems as underdeveloped managerial ability, limited education, low-producing farm due to lack of development or improved production practices and other related factors. The applicant cannot develop a feasible plan at regular interest rates and at the maximum loan terms. The use of limited resource interest rates is restricted to those loan purposes denoted in §1943.66 (a)(1) through (a)(5) of this subpart.

Majority interest. Any individual or a combination of individuals owning more than a 50 percent interest in a cooperative, corporation, partnership or joint operation.

Mortgage. Any form of security interest or lien upon any rights or interest in real property of any kind. In Louisiana and Puerto Rico the term *mortgage* also refers to any security interest in chattel property.

Partnership. An entity consisting of individuals who have agreed to operate a farm. The entity must be recognized as a partnership by the laws of the State(s) in which the entity will operate a farm and must be authorized to own both real and personal property and to incur debts in its own name.

Primary security. Any real estate and/or chattel security which is required to adequately secure the loan. This is not to be confused with *basic security*, as defined in §1962.4 of subpart A of part 1962 of this chapter.

Security. Property of any kind subject to a real or personal property lien. Any reference to collateral or security property shall be considered a reference to the term security.

State or United States. The United States itself, each of the several States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, Guam, American Samoa, and

RHS, RBS, RUS, FSA, USDA

§ 1943.62

the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

[53 FR 35706, Sept. 15, 1988, as amended at 58 FR 15072, Mar. 19, 1993; 58 FR 26681, May 5, 1993; 58 FR 48288, Sept. 15, 1993; 62 FR 9356, Mar. 3, 1997]

§ 1943.55 [Reserved]

§ 1943.56 Credit elsewhere.

The applicant shall certify in writing on the appropriate forms, and the County Supervisor shall verify and document, that adequate credit elsewhere is not available, with or without a guarantee or subordination, to finance the applicant's actual needs at reasonable rates and terms, taking into consideration prevailing private and cooperative rates and terms in the community in or near where the applicant resides for loans for similar purposes and periods of time.

(a) If the County Supervisor receives letters or other written evidence from a lender(s) indicating the applicant is unable to obtain satisfactory credit, these will be included in the loan docket.

(b) If the applicant cannot qualify for the needed credit from the lenders contacted, but one or more of them has indicated they would provide credit with an FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 guarantee, or the County Supervisor determines that the applicant can obtain a guaranteed loan, the applicant will be advised to file an application with that lender(s) so that a guaranteed SW loan request can be processed by the lender for consideration by FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354.

(c) Property and interest in property owned and income received by an individual applicant; and cooperative and its members, as individuals; a corporation and its stockholders, as individuals; a partnership and its partners, as individuals; and a joint operation and its joint operators, as individuals; will be considered and used by an applicant in obtaining credit from other sources.

§ 1943.57 Preference.

Priority will be given to otherwise qualified applicants requesting assistance for soil and water conservation and protection purposes denoted in

§ 1943.66(a) of this subpart who use loan funds to build conservation structures or establish conservation practices on highly erodible land to comply with part 12 of this title (see attachment 1 of exhibit M of subpart G of part 1940 of this chapter which is available in any FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 office).

[58 FR 15072, Mar. 19, 1993]

§§ 1943.58-1943.60 [Reserved]

§ 1943.61 Receiving and processing applications.

Applications will be received and processed as provided in subpart A of part 1910 of this chapter, with consideration given to the requirements in exhibit M of subpart G of part 1940 of this chapter.

§ 1943.62 Soil and water loan eligibility requirements.

In accordance with the Food Security Act of 1985 (Pub. L. 99-198), after December 23, 1985, if an individual or any member, stockholder, partner, or joint operator of an entity is convicted under Federal or State law of planting, cultivating, growing, producing, harvesting, or storing a controlled substance (see 21 CFR part 1308, which is exhibit C of subpart A of part 1941 of this chapter and is available in any FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 office, for the definition of *controlled substance*) prior to loan approval in any crop year, the individual or entity shall be ineligible for a loan for the crop year in which the individual or member, stockholder, partner, or joint operator of the entity was convicted and the four succeeding crop years. Applicants will attest on Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 410-1, "Application for FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 Services," that as individuals or that its members, if an entity, have not been convicted of such crime after December 23, 1985. In addition, the following requirements must be met:

(a) An individual must:

(1) Be a citizen of the United States (see § 1943.54 of this subpart for the definition of *United States*) or an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for